

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 02239

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINT, SF, CA
SUBJECT: CANADIAN VIEWS ON SOUTH AFRICA

1. IN BRIEF CONVERSATION WITH POLITICAL COUNSELOR MARCH 30, H. CARTER, DIRECTOR OF AFRICAN AFFAIRS AND FORMER CANADIAN AMBASSADOR TO SOUTH AFRICA, EXPRESSED PESSIMISM FIVE-POWER DEMARCHE ON NAMIBIA WOULD PRODUCE ANY IMMEDIATE POSITIVE RESULT, BUT FELT IT WAS ESSENTIAL STEP IN EFFORT TO ALTER SAG THINKING. IT IS UNLIKELY SAG WOULD TURN DOWN DEMARCHE FLATLY, BUT IT WOULD PROBABLY TRY TO SCORE SOME DEBATING POINTS BY REFERRING TO TURNHALLE AND "INTERIM" GOVERNMENT IN NAMIBIA. TURNHALLE, IN CARTER'S WORDS, IS CLEARLY A NON-STARTER AS IT WAS TOTALLY OUTSIDE UN FRAMEWORK AND IT WAS UNDEMOCRATIC.

2. LOOKING BEYOND FIVE-POWER DEMARCHE, CARTER PREDICTED THERE WOULD BE GROWING CHASM BETWEEN U.S. AND U.K. OVER "STERN ACTION BY UN" AND "NEW RANGE OF MEASURES INTENDED TO OBTAIN SOUTH AFRICAN COMPLIANCE WITH APPLICABLE RESOLUTIONS OF UNSC CONCERNING NAMIBIA". CANADA OR AT
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LEAST DEPARTMENT OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, HE SAID, WOULD PROBABLY BE INCLINED TO SUPPORT U.S. IN ADOPTING "STERN MEASURES". HE NOTED, HOWEVER, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS HAD ALREADY ENCOUNTERED OPPOSITION FROM MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY, TRADE, AND COMMERCE REGARDING PROPOSALS TO ESTABLISH GUIDELINES FOR CANADIANS CONDUCTING BUSINESS WITH SOUTH AFRICA AND TO REMOVE TAX CREDITS FOR FIRMS TRADING WITH

NAMIBIA. ENDERS

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